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U.S. District Court Northern California

ECF Registration Information Handout

The case you are participating in has been designated for this court's Electronic Case Filing (ECF) Program, pursuant to Civil Local Rule 5-4 and General Order 45. This means that you **must** (check off the boxes ☒ when done):

- ☐ **1) Serve** this ECF Registration Information Handout on **all** parties in the case along with the complaint, or for removals, the removal notice. DO NOT serve the efiler application form, just this handout.

Each attorney representing a party must also:

- ☐ **2) Register** to become an efiler by filling out the efiler application form. Follow ALL the instructions on the form carefully. If you are already registered in this district, do not register again, your registration is valid for life on all ECF cases in this district.
- ☐ **3) Email** (do not efile) the complaint and, for removals, the removal notice and all attachments, in PDF format within ten business days, following the instructions below. You do not need to wait for your registration to be completed to email the court.
- ☐ **4) Access** dockets and documents using **PACER** (Public Access to Court Electronic Records). If your firm already has a PACER account, please use that - it is not necessary to have an individual account. PACER registration is free. If you need to establish or check on an account, visit: <http://pacer.psc.uscourts.gov> or call **(800) 676-6856**.

BY SIGNING AND SUBMITTING TO THE COURT A REQUEST FOR AN ECF USER ID AND PASSWORD, YOU CONSENT TO ENTRY OF YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS INTO THE COURT'S ELECTRONIC SERVICE REGISTRY FOR ELECTRONIC SERVICE ON YOU OF ALL E-FILED PAPERS, PURSUANT TO RULES 77 and 5(b)(2)(D) (eff. 12.1.01) OF THE FEDERAL RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE.

All subsequent papers submitted by attorneys in this case shall be filed electronically. Unrepresented litigants must file and serve in paper form, unless prior leave to file electronically is obtained from the assigned judge.

ECF registration forms, interactive tutorials and complete instructions for efilng may be found on the ECF website: <http://ecf.cand.uscourts.gov>

Submitting Initiating Documents

PDF versions of all the initiating documents originally submitted to the court (Complaint or Notice of Removal, exhibits, etc.) must be **emailed (not efiled)** to the **PDF email box for the presiding judge** (not the referring judge, if there is one) **within 10 (ten) business days** of the opening of your case. For a complete list of the email addresses, please go to: <http://ecf.cand.uscourts.gov> and click on **[Judges]**.

You must include the case number and judge's initials in the subject line of all relevant emails to the court. You do not need to wait for your registration to email these documents.

These documents must be emailed instead of e-filed to prevent duplicate entries in the ECF system. All other documents must be e-filed from then on. You do not need to efile or email the Civil Cover Sheet, Summons, or any documents issued by the court at case opening; note that you do need to efile the Summons Returned.

Converting Documents to PDF

Conversion of a word processing document to a PDF file is required before any documents may be submitted to the Court's electronic filing system. Instructions for creating PDF files can be found at the ECF web site: <http://ecf.cand.uscourts.gov>, and click on **[FAQ]**.

Email Guidelines: When sending an email to the court, the subject line of the email **must** contain the **case number, judge's initials** and the **type of document(s)** you are sending, and/or the topic of the email.

Examples: The examples below assume your case number is 03-09999 before the Honorable Charles R. Breyer:

Type of Document	Email Subject Line Text
Complaint Only	03-09999 CRB Complaint
Complaint and Notice of Related Case	03-09999 CRB Complaint, Related Case
Complaint and Motion for Temporary Restraining Order	03-09999 CRB Complaint, TRO

Questions

Almost all questions can be answered in our **FAQs** at **<http://ecf.cand.uscourts.gov>**, please check them first.

You may also email the ECF Help Desk at ECFhelpdesk@cand.uscourts.gov or call the toll-free ECF Help Desk number at: (866) 638-7829.

The ECF Help Desk is staffed Mondays through Fridays from 9:00am to 4:00pm Pacific time, excluding court holidays.